

REMARKS

Claims 3, 5-9, 11 and 15 remain in this application, with Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12-14 and 16-31 cancelled and Claims 3, 5-9, 11 and 15 amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and review of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks. By the foregoing amendments, no new matter has been added.

At the outset, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 8. In response, Applicant has amended Claim 8 to independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has also amended Claims 3, 5-7, 9, 11 and 15 to depend upon Claim 8. Applicant has cancelled all other claims in the application, without prejudice to the filing of a subsequent continuation application.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 15-19, and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurzius et al. in view of Buckwalter et al. The Examiner also rejected Claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kurzius et al. in view of Walker et al. As an initial matter, the Examiner indicated in paragraph 27 that Claim 8 was allowable. Applicant therefore construes the statement of the rejection to be in error insofar as it includes Claim 8. In view of the cancellation of Claim 1, and the amendment of other remaining claims to depend from Claim 8, these grounds of rejection are deemed moot.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3, 5-9, 11 and 15 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. If it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

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To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a three -month extension of time, extending to December 6, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2005. A check in the amount of \$905.00 is enclosed for the three-month extension of time (\$510.00) pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(a)(3) and for request for continued examination (RCE) (\$395.00) pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.17(e). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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